



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service

AQIS fact sheet

Ship Sanitation Certificate

What is a Ship Sanitation Certification regime?

The Ship Sanitation Certification regime is aimed at controlling the international spread of human diseases by controlling any animal vectors (rodents and mosquitoes) of diseases that could potentially be carried on a ship. This is achieved by inspecting for and controlling animal vectors, preventing the discharge of untreated ballast water, checking certification of potable water and sewage, and quarantine measures for human carriers of disease.

The Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate and the Ship Sanitation Control Certificate are issued in accordance with Article 39 of the *International Health Regulations (2005)* and replaces the *Deratting Certificate from the International Health Regulations (1969)*.

How long is a Ship Sanitation Certificate valid for?

A Ship Sanitation Certificate is valid for a period of six months from the date of issue. This period may be extended by one month if the inspection or control measures cannot be accomplished at the port.

The certificate does not guarantee that the ship will remain in a sanitary condition after issue and may be reviewed or revoked should there be any change in relevant conditions on board the ship.

Information in the certificate will not prevent or prejudice further ship inspection by experienced authorities of any country, including Australia.

When is a Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate issued?

A Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate is issued when, at the time of inspection, there are no signs of vectors, reservoirs or ill humans on board the ship.

When is a Ship Sanitation Control Certificate issued?

A Ship Sanitation Control Certificate is issued when, at the time of inspection, there are signs of vectors or certification of ship facilities is invalid, out of date or out of order.

International sewage pollution prevention

All eligible international ships are required to carry an International Sewage Pollution Prevention (ISPP) certificate under the requirement of the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex IV*. The ISPP certificate certifies the sewage systems on board an international ship comply with MARPOL requirements.

Ships have slightly different eligibility requirements for ISPP certificates than for Ship Sanitation Certificates. ISPP certificates are issued to ships:

- greater than 400 gross tonnes
- certified to carry more than 15 persons.

More information

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